

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 19, 2020

Mr. Jon Parrish Peede
Chairman
National Endowment for the Humanities
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Chairman Peede,

I write to you to offer my support for the application submitted by the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts (MFA-WC) to the National Endowment for the Humanities' CARES Grant: Cultural Organizations Grant (NEH Funding Opportunity: 20200511-AG-GA-HC-RJ-PB).

The Washington County Museum of Fine Art is a multi-state gem. The museum gives people from all backgrounds equal access to artwork and historical items that are significant to our community. As with organizations in nearly every sector, the Museum has been adversely affected by the coronavirus outbreak and anticipates losses of more than \$70,000 in the second quarter of this year. Though the museum has already experienced major losses, no employees have been furloughed or laid off at this point. However, the anticipated losses will begin to impact staff salaries in a few short weeks, beginning in July of this year. Funding the museum's grant application will allow staff to stay on payroll and will maintain institutional memory, a vital resource for planning and execution of the museum's mission.

I respectfully request that you give all due consideration to the request submitted by the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts and believe that full funding will help the museum continue its important work in Western Maryland through and beyond the pandemic. If you or any of your staff have questions, please feel free to contact Andrew Donlon of my staff at Andrew.Donlon@mail.house.gov or via phone at 301-926-0300.

Sincerely,

/s/

DAVID TRONE
Member of Congress